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Guide to Microform Edition
of the
Reports of the Royal Commissions
of Canada
1867-1966

Guide to Microform Edition of the
Reports of the Royal Commissions of Canada 1867-1966

A Supplement to Henderson. Federal Royal
Commissions in Canada, 1867-1966: A Checklist

INTRODUCTION

As an investigative device, the Royal Commission has almost become an institution in Canada. Over the years Commissioners have been appointed to look into and report upon extraordinary matters both minor and significant. Consequently, while individual reports will vary in importance, the collection provides a valuable insight into the problems which have confronted various Canadian governments since Confederation.

Unfortunately, time, the fire of 1916 which destroyed the Parliament Buildings and, to some extent, neglect have combined to destroy many of the reports and have made impossible the assembly of a complete collection of Royal Commission reports.

Many of the reports which escaped the ravages of time are difficult to locate, scattered as they are throughout library collections and buried deep within departmental files. As a result any attempt to gather even a representative collection of Royal Commission reports would be doomed to failure without the assistance of a competent guide. Micromedia Limited was fortunate to have a number of such guides, notably the staff of the Public Records Division of the Public Archives of Canada and George Fletcher Henderson's Federal Royal Commissions in Canada 1867-1966 A Checklist. This volume was invaluable in our search and has been used as a basis for the microform edition of the Royal Commission reports.

The reports have been assembled and numbered according to Henderson. Of the 396 Royal Commissions Henderson has listed, Micromedia has been able to locate over 300 reports. Certain reports that had been listed but not presented at the time of publication of Henderson's volume have also been filmed.

However some reports have not been filmed. These are primarily recently issued reports that are both readily available in the paper edition and expensive to film. These exclusions are noted in this Guide.

Since the publication of Henderson's volume, staff members of the Public Archives of Canada have discovered a number of reports that Henderson has listed as "not located". Likewise, our search has uncovered a few more. In all, a total of 32 additional reports have been located. As well, additional information relevant to some reports was found. These reports and this information have been listed in the Guide.

In many cases the reports that had not previously been located were accompanied by other documents that related directly to the commission, such as transcripts of evidence, correspondence etc. As a service to interested researchers and in answer to a request from the Public Archives, we have noted here Public Archives locations for all previously unlocated Royal Commission reports.



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Henderson has given the location of a number of reports simply as "Sessional Paper Office" or "Departmental files". This Guide provides, in addition, specific Public Archives locations for those reports that we were able to find.

Finally, the search for Royal Commission reports uncovered one new Royal Commission which seemed to fill Henderson's criteria but which was not listed. It was felt that this report should be included in the microform edition. This report has been assigned the letter A and the relevant information concerning it appears in the "Addenda" section.

Since this Guide is designed as a supplement to Henderson, it has been organized in the same sequence: that is, by Henderson report number.

It is hoped that this project, used in conjunction with Henderson, will render some further guideposts to travellers in the uncharted regions of Canadian History.

-- James Quantrell
Micromedia Limited
December, 1976

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Jules Lariviere, Head of Canadian Official Publications at the National Library of Canada, also contributed valuable suggestions and advice. And the project would not have seen the light of day without the guidance of Harry Wilson of the Privy Council Office, whose insight into and familiarity with the operations of Royal Commissions were vital to its realization.

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ADDENDA

Report No

A THE PRICE-WATERHOUSE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO THE BOOKS AND ACCOUNTS
OF VARIOUS TERMINAL ELEVATOR COMPANIES AT FORT WILLIAM AND PORT ARTHUR.

Appointed on March 12, 1918 by Order in Council PC 590 under Part I
of the Inquiries Act on the recommendation of the Minister of Trade and
Commerce.

Report
Not printed

Commissioners: Price-Waterhouse.

Report of the Price-Waterhouse Commission

Dated June 26, 1918 124 leaves

Location: Public Archives of Canada. RG 20 vol 1361 File T-14-16

3

Report

Not printed.

Report of Francis Godshall Johnson regarding the State of Laws connected with the administration of Justice in Rupert's Land and the North West Territories.

Dated at Montreal September 15, 1871. 56 pages plus appendices (271 p)

Location: Public Archives of Canada. RG 6 A vol 157. File 192-1309-1871

8

Report

Not printed

Report of Joseph Dubuc and John F Bain concerning claims of rights of Common and of Cutting Hay in the Province of Manitoba.

Dated at Winnipeg February 23, 1874. 6 leaves

Location: Public Archives of Canada. RG 15 vol 503 and attached to Order in Council PC 331 17 Apr. 1874.

15

Report

Not printed.

Alexander Morris wrote a report but no copy was located. However a schedule of the claims settled by Morris was located and filmed. Also a "Special Report" written by Morris concerning the Commission was located and filmed. Following the writing of this "Special Report" Morris resigned and was replaced by Mrs. Justice Wood.

Location: Public Archives of Canada. RG 15 Vol 235. File 4666

21

Report

Not printed

Welland Canal Commission. General Report. Report on the charges against certain employees of the Welland Canal.

Dated at St. Catherines May 1879. 61 leaves

Location: Public Archives of Canada. RG 43 B1 vol 388

35

Report

Not printed.

Report of the Royal Commission to Inquire into the Enumeration of the Half-Breeds in the North West Territories.

Dated at London Ontario. September 26, 1885 2 leaves

Location: Public Archives of Canada. RG 15 vol 178. File HB 1166.

44

Report

Not printed.

Report of the Commission to Investigate Alleged Irregularities regarding a Fuel Wood Contract at the Citadel, Quebec City

Dated at Quebec City December 4, 1886. 3 leaves

Location: Public Archives of Canada. RG 9 II A1 File A 3884

48

Investigation turned up a letter (letter # 62631, RG11: vol 2247) dated April 28, 1890 from the Minister of Public Works to Commissioner Gzowski stating "in view of the lateness of the season and your approaching departure for England...{the Minister} believes that it would be more advisable for the present not to call for a meeting of the commission as first intended".

On June 4, 1890 John Page acting as Chief Engineer of Canada and Louis Coste acting as the Chief Engineer of Public Works submitted a report on the condition of Montreal Harbour and recommended further study. On July 1, 1890 Order in Council P.C. 1857 was passed granting authority for further study. Meanwhile the Chief Engineer submitted a report dated November 1890 concerning the condition of Montreal Harbour. As a result Order in Council P.C. 2690 was passed on January 17, 1891 approving the plans submitted by the Chief Engineer and cancelling the Order in Council of July 1, 1890 which had authorized further inquiry. In light of this and since no further mention of the Gzowski commission can be located it seems likely that no report was ever issued.

61

Location: Public Archives of Canada. RG 23 vol 221 File 1196 point 2.

64

Report
Not printed.

Report of the Commissioners appointed to confer with the Government of Manitoba on the Subject of the Schools in that Province.

Dated at Winnipeg April 2, 1896. 25 leaves

Location: Public Archives of Canada. RG 2/3 vol 115. PC 1306.

65

Report
Not printed.

Report of D.G. Smith, Commissioner on the Bay du Vin Island Net Stands in Dispute between Dudley Perley and T.B. Williston.

Dated at Chatham, New Brunswick May 14, 1896. 41 leaves

Location: Public Archives of Canada. RG 23 vol 119 File 137 Part 1

66

Report
Not printed.

Report of the Commission to Inquire into Certain Claims of Messrs. Bancroft, Connally and Company, regarding the Construction of the Kingston Graving Dock.

Dated at Ottawa July 2, 1896 18 leaves.

Location: Public Archives of Canada. RG 11 vol 1096 File 172287.

74

Report
Not printed.

Report of the Commission to Investigate Certain Matters in Connection with the Rocky Mountains Park of Canada, at Banff.

Dated at Winnipeg March 3, 1897. 7 leaves

Location: Public Archives of Canada. RG 15 vol 734 File 417951

- 76 Location: Public Archives of Canada. RG 33
- 78 Location: Public Archives of Canada. RG 13 A2 vol 104 File 335/97
- # 91 Report
Not printed.
- First Report " Royal Commission on Mining Conditions in British Columbia. Report of Commissioner R.C. Clute. 1900"
- Dated March 12, 1900
- Typewritten manuscript located in Dept of Labour Library
- Second Report "Second Report of the Royal Commission on Mining Conditions in British Columbia, 1900. R.C. Clute, Commissioner."
- Dated May 3, 1900.
- Typewritten manuscript located in Dept of Labour Library.
- 92 Report
Not Printed.
- Report of the Commission to Investigate Certain Half-Breeds Claims in the District of Athabaska and Adjoining Country covered by Treaty No. 8
- Dated at Ottawa January 19, 1901 2 leaves
- Location: Public Archives of Canada. RG 15 vol 782 File 555680 (1)
- 97 Report
Not Printed.
- Report of the Commissioners in re Joint Townsites December 1900.
- Dated at Ottawa Dec 6, 1900 30 leaves
- Location: Public Archives of Canada. RG 15 vol 312. File 69563-3
- 98 Report printed as: Enquiry under R.S.C., C.A.P. 114. Report of the Commissioner, (The Honorable William White, Judge of the Superior Court, Province of Quebec)
- Dated October 6, 1900
- Location: Government Documents Section, Douglas Library, Queen's Kingston, Ontario.
- 105 Location: Public Archives of Canada. RG 23 vol 222. Proceedings Vol III
- 107 Location: Public Archives of Canada. RG 23 vol 336 File 2918 Part III
- 116 Location: Public Archives of Canada. RG 19 vol 3215 File 12968
- 118 Location: Public Archives of Canada. RG23 vol 189 File 830
- 121 Because of technical difficulties only the text of this report was filmed. Charts, diagrams and photographs have been excluded.
- 122 Location: Public Archives of Canada. RG 23 vol 349 File 3027

- 127 Report
Not printed.
- Report of William P Anderson re Occupation by Squatters of the Government Lighthouse Reserve at Presqu'isle, Ontario.
- Dated at Ottawa July 31, 1905. 2 leaves
- Location: Public Archives of Canada. RG42 vol 516. File 21794 L
- 131 Final Report printed as:
British Columbia Fisheries Commission 1905-1907. Report and Recommendations with Addenda and Appendices. Queen's Printer Ottawa 1908.
- 138 Report
Not printed.
- Report of Hector M. Howell re claims on St. Peter's Indian Reserve.
- N.P. N.D. 53 leaves
- Location: Public Archives of Canada. RG 15 vol 498 File 139441 (2)
- 147 Location: Public Archives of Canada. RG 23 Vol 84 File 21 (4)
- 148 Interim Reports printed as:
- 1) Dominion Fisheries Commission for Manitoba and the Northwest 1909-10. Interim Report and Recommendations. Queen's Printer, Ottawa 1909.
- 2) Dominion Fisheries Commission for Manitoba and the Northwest 1909-10 Interim Report and Recommendations on Lac du Bonnet Fisheries. Queen's Printer. Ottawa, 1910.
- 157 A letter dated March 12, 1914 (file 1806-4) written by Arthur Surveyor in answer to an inquiry states that Mr Gear resigned and was never replaced. Consequently the Commission "has...never been constituted and set to work". Therefore no report was ever issued.
- 165 Location: Public Archives of Canada. RG 23 vol 84 File 21 Part 5.
- 183 Report
Not printed.
- Report. The Chartering and Voyage of the "Komagata Maru" with Attendant Circumstances.
- Dated at Vancouver November 11, 1914. 32 leaves
- Location: Public Archives of Canada. RG 76 vol 602 File 879545 Part 6
- 183A After he submitted his report, Mr H.C. Clogston was reappointed as a Commissioner "to make further investigations as he may deem necessary..."
- Appointed on June 2, 1915 by Order in Council PC 1263 under the provisions of the Enquiries Act on the recommendation of the Minister of the Interior.

Report
Not printed.

Result of Action in Accordance with Order in Council P.C. 1263 June 2nd, 1915.

Dated at Duncon, B.C. November 1915. 11 leaves

185 Report
Not printed.

Re: Investigation of Drill Halls in the Province of Ontario. Report of Mr. R.A. Pringle, K.C. Commissioner.

Dated at Ottawa. April 10, 1915, 4 leaves

Location: Public Archives of Canada. RG 33/8

187 A fifth report presented by Commissioner Davidson was located. The report was printed as: Royal Commission. Report of the Commissioner on the Purchase of Horses in Nova Scotia for First Canadian Contingent Queen's Printer, Ottawa 1917.

199 Although the full report was not located, a summary of this report was found in the Labour Gazette September 1916. Vol XVI p. 1549-1550

209 Report
Not printed

Report by Oscar Coderre concerning the sufficiency of the Petition for Bringing into force the Temperance Act in the City of Quebec.

Dated at Ottawa, August 6, 1917 4 leaves

Location: Public Archives of Canada. RG 6 A14 vol 20 File 1269

216 Although the full report was not located a summary of the report was found in the Labour Gazette vol XVIII June 1918 pp 409-413

226 Although the full report was not located, a summary of the report was located in the Labour Gazette vol XIX May 1919 pp 535.

231 Report
Not printed.

Guelph Novitiate Inquiry. Report of Commissioners.

N.P. Dated October 6, 1919 21 leaves

Location: Public Archives of Canada. RG 14 D2 vol 58

238 There were actually two Royal Commissions appointed to investigate the conditions aboard the S.S. Scandinavian. The Royal Commission noted by Henderson as # 238 is the second of the two commissions. The report for this commission has been located.

Report
Not printed.

Report of the Commission to Investigate the Treatment of Soldiers' Dependents on the S.S. Scandinavian who arrived at Port Saint John on January 10, 1919.

Dated November 13, 1919. 13 leaves

Supplemental Report

N.P. 9 leaves

Dated January 24, 1920 and February 9, 1920

Location of both reports: Public Archives of Canada. RG 24 C1 vol 766
File HQ 54-21-6-146 (3)

It should be noted that the Order in Council authorizing the Chandler Commission is P.C. 1274 June 23, 1919 not P.C. 1558

- .238A This is the other Commission appointed to investigate conditions aboard the S.S. Scandinavian.

Appointed on April 12, 1919 by Order in Council P.C. 793 under the provisions of the Inquiries Act (Chapter 104) on the recommendation of the Minister of Immigration and Colonization.

Report

Not printed

Report by J.D. Page re certain complaints concerning women passengers, being soldiers' dependents aboard the S.S. Scandinavian.

Dated at Quebec City April 24, 1919 14 leaves

Location: Public Archives of Canada. RG 24 C1 vol 767 File HQ
54-21-6-146 (4)

- 241 The Commission's work was just getting underway when on June 13, 1921 a temporary injunction against the commission was sought by the Northwest Grain Dealers' Association and approximately 40 Line Elevator Companies and the United Grain Growers Ltd. The injunction was served on June 15, 1921 and work on the commission ceased. Argument proceeded through June 22, 23 and 24. "Judgement was rendered on July 11, 1921 by Mr. Justice Curran to the effect that the Order in Council and the commission were untra vires the Governor-in-Council and the injunction was made permanent." (Memorandum - Work of the Commission - dated July 12, 1921 and signed by James D Hyndman (RG 20 vol File 14-128))

The federal government appealed Mr Justice Curran's decision and the judgement was overruled by the Manitoba Supreme Court. However there is no indication that any action was taken to revive the Commission. It seems likely that the commission was simply allowed to wither away and that no report was ever issued.

For related documents see Public Archives of Canada. RG 20 vol 838
File 14-128

- 242 Report
Not printed

Report of Louis E Panneton re "Amount Required to pay the Park St. Charles Co Ltd."

N.P. Dated Sept 30, 1921. 3 leaves

Copy located at Public Archives of Canada. RG 33

254 Report
Not printed

Report of Commissioners Williams, Sinclair and McFadden.

Dated at Ottawa Dec 1, 1923 17 leaves

Location: Public Archives of Canada. RG 10 vol 2330 (Red Series)
File 67071-3

256 Not included

267 Report
Not printed.

Report on the evidence taken pursuant to Commission dated May 30th 1928
Issued to Gordon C Lindsay

No page. No date. 35 leaves

Location: Public Archives of Canada. RG 16 Vol 1120 File 145843

272 There were two reports produced by this commission.

1) printed as "Report of the Commissioners re Adhesion to Treaty No. 9" in
Annual Report of the Dept of Indian Affairs 1929
P. 20-32

2) printed as "Report of Commissioners re Adhesion to Treaty No. 9 for the
year 1930" in Annual report of the Dept of Indian Affairs 1930.
P 22-43

Second report also located at: Public Archives of Canada
RG 10 Vol 3034 File 235225 (3)

289 Report
Not printed

Report of Louis A Audette re the Commission to inquire into the claims
of the estate of the Late John Ross.

N. P. . Dated May 16, 1935 25 leaves

Location: Public Archives of Canada. RG 43 A2(a) vol 209.

297 Location: Public Archives of Canada. MG 27 III C4 vol 5 File 19.

303A When the original commission is issued to Arthur T Leblanc (See Henderson #303)
was completed, another Order in Council, P.C. 421 Mar 1, 1937 issued
on the recommendation of the Minister of Fisheries, extended LeBlanc's
authority to investigate charges of favouritism and failure to enforce
fishery law in his district against fisheries inspector J J Losier.

Report
Not printed.

Commissioner's Report concerning certain charges of favouritism and of failure to enforce fisheries laws in his district against James J Losier, whose district covers a portion of Gloucester County in New Brunswick.

Dated at Moncton, New Brunswick 1937. 10 leaves

Copy located in Public Archives Library PAAP
SH
N4
fol.

- 310 Only the first four reports were located and filmed.
- 312 Although the full report was not located, a summary of the report was found in the Labour Gazette vol XL. Nov 1940.
P 1137-1138
- 321 Location: Public Archives of Canada. RG 27 vol 863 File 8-4-3
- 323 Location: Public Archives of Canada. RG 27 vol 182
- 326 Location: Public Archives of Canada. RG 27 vol 182
- 333 Location; Public Archives of Canada. RG 14 D2 vol 501
- 339 Location: Public Archives of Canada. RG 14 D2 vol 509
- 340 Location: Public Archives of Canada. RG 14 D2 vol 559
- 346 Not included
- 347 Location: Public Archives of Canada. RG 14 D2 vol 562
- 348 Location: Public Archives of Canada. RG 14 D2 Vol 559
- 367 Not included
- 379 Not included
- 380 Not included
- 393 Report printed as: Report of the Royal Commission on Farm Machinery 1971. March 1971. 636p.
Report on Farm Machinery. Special Report on Prices. December 1969 239p.

- 394 Report printed as: Royal Commission on Security. Report, abridged. 1969 vi, 159 p.
- 395 Not included.
- 396 Report printed as: Inquiry re Administration of Justice in the Hay River Area of the N.W.T. - Report.
Dated Feb 5, 1968. 130 p.

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